

FRAN

By JOHN BRECKENRIDGE ELLIS

Illustrations by O. Irwin Myers

Mrs. Gregory was calm. "Miss Grace, Fran told me long ago that she is eighteen years old; she came as a little girl, because she thought we would take her in more readily, if we believed her a mere child."

"Does Mr. Gregory know that?" "I haven't told him; I don't know whether Fran has or not."

"You haven't told him?" Grace was speechless. "You knew it, and haven't told him? What ought I to do?"

"You ought to keep your promise," Abbott retorted hotly.

"Sitting on that bridge at midnight, alone, telling people's fortunes by cards. . . . Professor Ashton—Mrs. Gregory!" Grace exclaimed, with one of those flashes of inspiration peculiar to her sex, "that Fran is a show-girl!"

Mrs. Gregory rose, and spoke through her mother's ear-trumpet: "Shall we go home, now?"

"That Fran," repeated Grace, "is a show-girl! She is eighteen or nineteen years old, and she is a show-girl!"

"Wouldn't it be best for you to ask her?"

"Ask her? Her? No, I ask you!" "Let me push the chair," said Abbott, stepping to Mrs. Gregory's side. He read in the troubled face that she had known this secret, also.

The secretary gazed at him with a far-away look, hardly conscious that he was beating retreat, so absorbed was she in this revelation. It would be necessary for some one to go to Springfield to make investigations. Grace had for ever alienated Abbott Ashton, but there was always Robert Clinton. He would obey her every wish; Robert Clinton should go. And when Robert had returned with a full history of Hamilton Gregory's school-days at Springfield, and those of Gregory's intimate friends, Fran, with the proofs of her conspiracy spread before her, should be driven forth, never again to darken the home of the philanthropist.

CHAPTER XIII.

Alliance With Abbott.

For the most part, that was a silent walk to Hamilton Gregory's. Abbott Ashton pushed the wheel-chair, and it was only Mrs. Jefferson, ignorant of what had taken place, who commented on the bright moon, and the relief of rose-scented breezes after the musty auditorium of Walnut Street church.

"They were bent and determined on Fran going to choir practice," the old lady told Abbott, "so Lucy and I went along to encourage her, for they say she has a fine voice, and they want all the good singing they can have at Uncle Tobe Fuller's funeral. I despise big doings at funerals, but I expect to go, and as I can't hear the solos, nor the preacher working up feelings, all I'll have to do will be to sit and look at the coffin."

"Mother," said Mrs. Gregory, "you are not cheerful tonight."

"No," the other responded, "I think it's from sitting so long by the White Sepulcher."

Mrs. Gregory spoke into the trumpet, with real distress—"Mother, mother! Abbott won't understand you; he doesn't know you are using a figure of speech."

"Yes," said the old lady, "number thirteen, if there's anything unlucky in figures."

Abbott effected diversion. "Mrs. Gregory, I'm glad Miss Noir agreed to say nothing about her discoveries, for the only harm in them is what people might imagine. I was pretty uneasy, at first, of course I knew that if she felt she ought to tell it, she would. I never knew anybody so conscientious."

There was a pause, then Mrs. Gregory responded, "She will not tell."

Abbott had seen them safely into the house, and had reached the gate on his departure, when Fran came running up. In pleased surprise he opened the gate for her, but she stopped in the outside shadow, and he paused within the yard.

"Fran!" he exclaimed with pleasure. "Is the practice ended?"

She made no response.

"Fran, what's the matter?"

Silence.

Abbott was both perplexed and hurt. "Remember what we said on the new bridge," he urged; "we're friends while we're together and after we part!"

"Somebody ought to burn that new bridge," said Fran, in a muffled tone; "it's no good making wishes come true."

"Why do you say that? Aren't we the best of friends?"

Fran collected herself, and spoke with cool distinctness: "I have a pretty hard fight, Mr. Ashton, and it's necessary to know who's on my side, and who isn't. I may not come out ahead; but I'm not going to lose out from taking a foe for a friend."

"Which you will kindly explain?"

"You are Grace Noir's friend—that explains it."

"I am your friend, too, Fran."

"My friend, too!" she echoed bit-

terly. "Oh, thanks—also!"

Abbott came through the gate, and tried to read her face. "Does the fact that I am her friend condemn me?"

"No—just classifies you. You couldn't be her friend if you were not a mirror in which she sees herself;



Fran Set Her Back Against the Fence and Looked at Him Darkly.

her conscience is so sure, that she hasn't use for anything but a faithful reflector of her opinions."

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

BOYS' PIG CLUBS.

Being Organized by Department Agriculture to Encourage Raising of Hogs.

Washington, Oct. 27.—The Department of Agriculture has its Boys' Corn Club and its Girls' Canning Club and now comes the Boys' Pig Club, being organized in the South for the purpose of increasing the supply of pork and encouraging good breeding of hogs. Already clubs have been organized in Alabama and Louisiana, and a club organization has been started in Georgia. It is the purpose of the officials of the department to organize clubs in every Southern State.

The idea of the organization started with the Farmers' Co-operative Demonstration branch of the department and has been carried on with the co-operation of the Animal Husbandry Division of the Bureau of Animal Industry. The organization is an off-shoot of the Boys' Corn Club which has an organization in every Southern State and which has been the means of producing record-breaking yields of corn. The Pig Club, when thoroughly organized, will, it is expected, work hand in hand with the corn club. The boys of the latter will produce the corn and the boys of the newly organized association will see to it that the pigs are produced to eat the corn.

In connection with the organization of the Pig Club the department makes the following statement:

"In organizing the Boys' Pig Club it is the purpose of the department to establish clubs in every southern State. The Animal Husbandry Division is co-operating with the Farmers' Co-operative Demonstration office in the Bureau of Plant Industry and has already established clubs in Alabama and Louisiana, and the movement is under way in Georgia. The organization is being done by the officials of the Farmers' Co-operative Demonstration force, and the Animal Husbandry agents are instructing and demonstrating how to handle the stock and to breed a superior type of pigs."

"It is the purpose of the department to have every member of the club encourage not only an increased production of the swine family but a better breed of pigs than is being raised at present. It is a serious purpose of the officials of the department are engaged in—one that is aimed at the high cost of living."

"The production of pork is not keeping pace with the increased population and something must be done to harmonize these two elements. If each member of the club—and they will be growing it is expected all the time—will see to it that one more pig and a better pig is produced each year then a long step will have been taken in meeting the ever growing chasm between pork production and increased population."

REFUSES NEW TRIAL.

Judge Sease Overrules Motion in Court at Manning.

Manning, Oct. 26.—Judge Thomas S. Sease has just filed an order overruling the motion for a new trial in the case of A. J. Briggs et al. vs. J. M. Caldwell et al., which was tried at the last term of the court of common pleas in Clarendon county. The jury found in favor of Caldwell and the attorneys for Briggs made a motion for a new trial, which is now denied. The effect of the verdict in this case was to set aside the alleged will of the late Mrs. E. M. Briggs of Summerton.

ELECTION HELD IN MEXICO.

LITTLE INTEREST MANIFESTED AND COMPARATIVELY FEW BALLOTS ARE CAST.

Probably no Legal Choice is Made as Less Than 10,000 of the 80,000 Persons Eligible to Vote Are Believed to Have Participated in the Election—Catholic Party Claims Lead.

Mexico City, Oct. 26.—At the close of the elections today the indications were that not sufficient votes had been cast in Mexico to constitute a legal choice for the presidency to succeed Gen. Huerta. No official announcement was made tonight, but it was unofficially estimated that less than 10,000 of the 80,000 eligible voters in the republic went to the polls. It will be no surprise to congress, the members of which also were voted for today, declares the elections void when that body is organized and revises the returns.

The leaders of the Catholic party claimed a long lead, although they were unable to estimate the number of votes polled for their candidates, Federico Gamboa and Gen. Rascoch.

If this claim is correct, it is generally thought that Gen. Felix Diaz and Senor Requena ran second. The Liberal candidates, Manuel Calero and Flores Magon, had no printed tickets at the polling places, the constituents being obliged to write their names on blank ballots.

President Huerta did not vote. He spent the day at his suburban home.

A decree will be issued by Gen. Huerta increasing the Army from 85,000 men, its alleged present number, to 150,000. Since the deputies and senators are not subject to the election provisions governing the presidential elections, it tonight is said that the choice of congress is assured. It is assumed that the Catholic party will have a majority in both chambers.

There was no semblance of disorder in any quarter of the city. A few patrols were on the streets, but neither police nor troops had any but their usual duties to perform.

The polling places opened at 9 o'clock in the morning and remained open until noon, when the attendants closed the booth until 3 o'clock in the afternoon for the midday meal. They were reopened at 3 and closed again at 5 o'clock.

From 3 to 5 o'clock, officials, one of whom was designated "president" were in attendance at each polling place. These officials represented the various parties and assisted in the preparation of the ballot when necessary, but offered no coercion or suggestion as to how the applicant should vote.

The election officials appeared to be a representative class of citizens—clerks, small business men, railroad employees and shop keepers. So far as could be ascertained no government employees served. Each polling place had a table on which were spread tickets of the various candidates. From these the voters made his selection, signed, folded and delivered it in the presence of the voter in the ballot box. Ballot boxes consisted of all sorts of receptacles from a paste board shoe box to a plush covered jewel casket, or a glass jar borrowed from a neighboring drug store. There was no secrecy about the voting.

As the vote was deposited the name was checked on the registration list previously prepared through personal visits of a designated official to the houses in his jurisdiction. It was not left to the volition of the eligible citizen to register his name on the list if he were entitled by residence, age and other requirements to cast a vote.

Manual Calero, Liberal candidate who was once ambassador at Washington, did not vote. Instead, he took his family early in the day into the country.

Federico Gamboa, candidate of the Catholic party, on the other hand, cast a ballot for Senor Calero. Neither of these candidates cared to express an opinion as to whether a sufficient number of ballots had been deposited to make the elections effective.

Few of those who went to the poles took the trouble to vote either for senators or deputies.

Examples of lack of activity in voting made at random after the closing of the polls at three places in thickly populated districts are:

Eleven votes cast out of an eligible 80; 12 cast out of an eligible 75, and 27 cast out of an eligible 350. One suburban polling place reported 22 voters out of 80 eligible, exercising the franchise. These figures are regarded as fairly representative of the voting in the capital.

The nearest approach of any district in bringing out its full voting strength occurred in one block where 14 men were eligible. Thirteen of these men cast their ballots. The fourteenth man was in jail.

EPISCOPAL CONVENTION ENDS.

TWO HOUSES UNABLE TO AGREE ON MATTERS OF IMPORTANCE.

Differences Between Two Mean That Racial Missionary Plan Goes Over for Three Years.

New York, Oct. 24.—The general convention of 1913 of the Protestant Episcopal church passed into history this afternoon in a hopeless deadlock on two important resolutions, with the most far-reaching topic of legislation before it unconsidered by one house because of an error in the other and with a positive refusal to consider a request of the Women's Christian Temperance union that unfemented grape juice be substituted for wine in the communion service.

On the proposal to establish a separate bishopric for negroes in the South and on the proposed elimination of the words "Jews, Turks, infidels and heretics," from the Good Friday collect, the house of bishops and the house of deputies were deadlocked. On the proposal to require a two-thirds vote to change the name of the church to the American Catholic church the bishops refused to act because the resolution was sent to them only yesterday, as a result of the forgetfulness of an assistant secretary of the deputies, while it was adopted by the lower house more than two weeks ago.

All hope of breaking the deadlock on the racial district plan was abandoned for the conference committee's report refused by the overwhelming vote of 91 to 13 to concur with the house of bishops. The bishops were equally determined not to recede from their stand. Upon turning of the deputies action the conference committee ceased its efforts to bring about an adjustment.

Immediately after the deputies' refusal to concur with the bishops, the bishops refused to concur with the deputies in two important resolutions adopted by the deputies early in the convention.

The first of these was to the effect that a two-thirds vote be necessary to change the name of the church; the second proposed to eliminate from the Good Friday collect the clause asking divine grace for "Jews, Turks, infidels and heretics." The bishops, by adverse vote, killed both proposals.

After disposing of the negro question the deputies marked time, waiting for word from the bishops that they were ready for the joint devotional service which would terminate the convention.

DARK CORNER NEWS NOTES.

Bad Weather and Scarcity of Hands Delays Cotton Picking—Personal.

Dark Corner, Oct. 27.—There is not much doing in this corner. The weather has been bad with much rain and wind of late.

There is lots of cotton to pick, but hands are scarce and as the weather keeps so bad, it is doubtful if it all will ever be gathered. It also looks at present as if peas will rot in the fields before they can be gathered. Very little corn has been housed so far, as farmers have been busy getting their cotton out of the fields.

The stork left a little girl at Mr. A. S. Weeks' last Monday night. Mother and babe are getting along nicely.

Mrs. J. B. Osteen, the blind lady of Central Privateer, spent several days at the Sycamores the later part of last week and this week.

There was a musical entertainment at the Sycamores last Sunday night. Those present were Mrs. J. B. Osteen, Mrs. L. E. Avin and family, Mr. J. E. Johnson and family and Mrs. Larry Hitchcock. A pleasant time was enjoyed by all present.

"H. T."

TILLMAN IS ALONE.

Senator is South Carolina's Only Representative in Washington.

Washington, Oct. 26.—Senator Tillman is today the only member of the South Carolina delegation in congress in Washington.

Senator Smith, who was at home for about two weeks and who returned to Washington a few days ago, has again gone to South Carolina; Congressman Aiken is out of the city and will go home Tuesday or Wednesday, and all of the other house members are also absent.

Senator Tillman's duties here have been such that it has been impossible for him to leave.

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REPORT OF THE CONDITION OF

The First National Bank of Sumter, at Sumter, in the State of South Carolina, at the Close of Business, October 21, 1913.

RESOURCES.

Loans and discounts	\$449,810.38
Overdrafts, secured and unsecured	4,859.20
U. S. Bonds to secure circulation	50,000.00
U. S. Bonds to secure U. S. deposits	7,000.00
Other bonds to secure Postal savings	4,000.00
Premium on U. S. bonds	200.00
Bonds, securities, etc.	14,600.00
Banking house, furniture and fixtures	2,000.00
New banking house site	20,000.00
Other real estate owned	1,162.60
Due from National banks (not reserve agents)	12,550.32
Due from approved Reserve agents	37,537.46
Checks and other cash items	3,932.16
Notes of other National banks	15,165.00
Fractional paper currency, nickles, and cents	625.25
Lawful money reserve in bank, viz:	
Specie	18,309.85
Legal-tender notes	500.00
Redemption fund with U. S. Treasurer (5 per cent of circulation)	2,500.00
Total	\$644,752.22

LIABILITIES:

Capital stock paid in	\$100,000.00
Surplus fund	100,000.00
Undivided profits, less expenses and taxes paid	16,787.54
National bank notes outstanding	50,000.00
Due to other National banks	6,378.30
Individual deposits subject to check	357,983.92
Cashier's checks outstanding	1,125.83
United States deposits	7,000.00
Postal savings deposits	476.63
Notes and bills rediscounted	5,000.00
Total	\$644,752.22

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA, County of Sumter.

I, J. L. McCallum, Cashier of the above named bank, do solemnly swear that the above statement is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

J. L. McCALLUM, Cashier.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 27th day of October, 1913.

Geo. L. Ricker,

Notary Public.

Correct—Attest:

NEILL O'DONNELL,

H. D. BARNETT,

W. B. UPSHUR,

Directors.

COOLER AND RAIN.

Washington, Oct. 26.—Temperatures below normal with rain distributed throughout the country featured the weather bureau's forecast for the week, made public today.

"A disturbance over the Mississippi valley today will advance eastward, with rains in the Eastern and South-eastern States Monday night or Tuesday, and will be followed by decidedly colder weather, overspreading the great central valleys and the gulf States Monday and the Eastern States except the Florida peninsula."

"A general reaction to higher temperatures will set in over the Plains States Monday. A disturbance in the Far West Tuesday will move eastward, preceded by rising temperature and attended by general precipitation. This will cross the great Central valleys about Thursday and the Eastern States Friday or Saturday. Considerably colder weather will overspread the Northwest Wednesday or Thursday."

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